

What is Claimed is:

1. A chemical compound, comprising the general formula $L\{YX_m\}_n$ wherein:

X is selected from the Group 13 elements consisting of boron, aluminum, gallium, indium, and tellurium;

5 Y is selected from the halide group consisting of fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, and astatine;

L is a chelating ligand containing at least one binding atom contacting the Group 13 element, the atom being selected from the group consisting of C, N, O, and S; and

10 m and n are integers having a value of at least 1.

2. A chemical compound, comprising the general formula $L\{YX_m\}_n$ wherein:

L is a Schiff base-containing ligand;

5 X is selected from the Group 13 elements consisting of boron, aluminum, gallium, indium, and tellurium;

Y is selected from the halide group consisting of fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, and astatine; and

m and n are integers having a value of at least 1.

3. The chemical compound of claim 2, wherein L is a salen ligand.

4. The chemical compound of claim 2, wherein L is a bidentate ligand.
5. The chemical compound of claim 2, wherein L is a quadridentate ligand.
6. The chemical compound of claim 3, wherein L is selected from the group consisting of Salen ('Bu), Salpen ('Bu), Salben ('Bu), and Salhen ('Bu).
7. The chemical compound of claim 2, wherein Y is boron or aluminum.
8. The chemical compound of claim 2, wherein X is chlorine, bromine, or iodine.
9. The chemical compound of claim 2, wherein m and n are 2.
10. A method for dealkylation of a phosphate ester or an ether, comprising contacting the phosphate ester or ether with a compound comprising the general formula $L\{YX_m\}_n$ wherein:
 - 5 L is a Schiff base-containing ligand;
 - X is selected from the group consisting of boron, aluminum, gallium, indium, and tellurium;
 - Y is selected from the halide group consisting of fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, and astatine; and

m and n are integers having a value of at least 1.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein L is a salen ligand.
12. The method of claim 10, wherein L is a bidentate ligand.
13. The method of claim 10, wherein L is a quadridentate ligand.
14. The method of claim 10, wherein L is selected from the group consisting of Salen (^tBu), Salpen (^tBu), Salben (^tBu), and Salhen (^tBu).
15. The method of claim 10, wherein Y is boron or aluminum.
16. The method of claim 10, wherein X is chlorine, bromine, or iodine.
17. The method of claim 12, wherein m and n are 2.
18. A catalytic method for dealkylation of a phosphate ester or an ether, comprising contacting the phosphate ester or ether with the compound of claim 2 in the presence of BBr₃.
19. The method of claim 18, wherein the phosphate ester or ether and BBr₃ are added in equimolar amounts.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein the dealkylation is conducted at ambient temperature.

21. A catalytic method for dealkylation of a phosphate ester or an ether, comprising contacting the phosphate ester or ether with a compound comprising the general formula $L\{YX_m\}_n$ wherein:

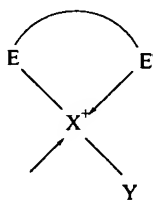
X is selected from the Group 13 elements consisting of boron, aluminum, gallium, indium, and tellurium;

Y is selected from the halide group consisting of fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, and astatine;

L is a chelating ligand containing at least two molecules E and E' contacting the Group 13 element, the molecules E and E' being selected from the group consisting of C, N, O, and S; and

m and n are integers having a value of at least 1.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the compound generates a cationic intermediate upon contacting the phosphate ester or ether, the cationic intermediate having the general formula:



23. The method of claim 21, wherein L is a Schiff base-containing ligand.
24. The method of claim 21, wherein L is a salen ligand.
25. The method of claim 24, wherein L is a bidentate ligand.
26. The method of claim 24, wherein L is a quadridentate ligand.
27. The method of claim 24, wherein L is selected from the group consisting of Salen (^tBu), Salpen (^tBu), Salben (^tBu), and Salhen (^tBu).
28. The method of claim 21, wherein Y is boron or aluminum.
29. The method of claim 21, wherein X is chlorine, bromine, or iodine.
30. The method of claim 21, wherein m and n are 2.
32. The method of claim 21, wherein the reaction is conducted in the presence of BBr₃.
33. The method of claim 32, wherein the phosphate ester or ether and BBr₃ are added in equimolar amounts.

34. The method of claim 21, wherein the dealkylation is conducted at ambient temperature.